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BIOLOGICAL RECONNAISANCE SURVEY AND JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION FOR THE NEWLAND STREET WIDENING PROJECT





Environmental Services - Biological Resources - Cultural Resources

ATTACHMENT NO. 4.1

BIOLOGICAL RECONNAISANCE SURVEY AND JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION FOR THE NEWLAND STREET WIDENING PROJECT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chambers Group, Inc., was retained by GC Environmental to conduct a literature review, a jurisdictional delineation, and a reconnaissance-level biological survey on the Newland Street Widening Improvement project site (CC #1095), a 4-acre site in Huntington Beach, Orange County. The proposed project would widen Newland Street between Pacific Coast Highway and Hamilton Avenue. The project includes widening the bridge over the Huntington Beach Channel. The purpose of this report is to document the current biological diversity and biological resources in the project area. A summary of the biological study results is shown below.

- > The Newland Street Widening Improvement site supports four vegetation communities, Southern Coastal Salt Marsh, Coastal Freshwater Marsh, Disturbed/Ruderal, and Ornamental Landscaping.
- ➢ Based on the literature review and subsequent reconnaissance-level and focused surveys, there were no federal- and/or state-listed plant species determined to have a potential for occurrence on the project site. Two sensitive, but not listed species, Coulter's goldfields (Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri) and mud nama (Nama stenocarpum), were determined to have a moderate or low potential to occur within the project vicinity. The presence or absence of these species could not be confirmed because the survey was not performed during the flowering season of these species. All other sensitive plant species were determined to be absent from the project site due to a lack of suitable habitat present onsite or because they were not observed during the focused survey conducted at the appropriate flowering period for each of the species.
- Based on the literature review and reconnaissance-level survey, a total of 11 sensitive wildlife species were identified as having the potential to occur within the project site. Nine of the 11 species were determined to be either absent from the site due to lack of suitable habitat or have a low potential for occurrence due to the limited amount of low quality habitat. The two species that have a moderate to high potential to occur onsite are the State and federal endangered California least tern and the State endangered Belding's savannah sparrow.
- The Huntington Beach Channel where the Newland Street Bridge will be widened is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The extension of the reinforced box culvert will affect 0.05 acres that fall under the jurisdiction of the USACE. In addition, 0.002 acres of adjacent wetlands would be affected by the removal of rip rap and extension of the bridge. The area within the channel under CDFG jurisdiction that would be affected by the project is 0.07 acres. The proposed project also would replace a 0.03 acre man made drainage ditch adjacent to Newland Street with a 39 inch RCP storm drain. The ditch contains 0.02 acres of wetlands but was determined not to fall under USACE jurisdiction because it has no outlet. Although the ditch does not fall under USACE jurisdiction it would still be regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2004-004-DWQ. CDFG also may take jurisdiction of the ditch. The amount of area in the ditch potentially under CDFG jurisdiction is 0.09 acres.

SECTION 1.0 – INTRODUCTION

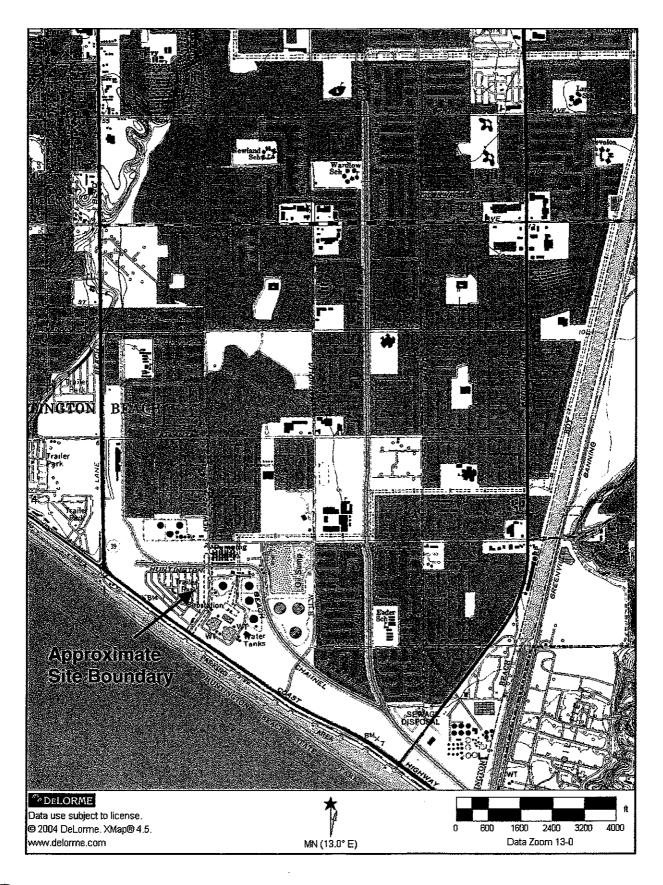
Chambers Group, Inc., was retained by GC Environmental to conduct biological surveys on the Newland Street Widening Improvement (CC #1095) project site located in the City of Huntington Beach, Orange County. Reconnaissance-level biological surveys were conducted to map the vegetation communities, document the existing biological resources, identify sensitive habitats and potential jurisdictional waters, and assess the habitat for its potential to support sensitive plant and wildlife species on the project site. The following Biological Technical Report summarizes the results of the reconnaissance-level surveys.

The project site is located parallel to Newland Street beginning at the intersection of Newland Street and Pacific Coast Highway and ending approximately 700 feet north of the Huntington Channel (Figure 1). The elevation on the project site was approximately 13 feet below to 13 feet above mean sea level (MSL). The project site is located on the southwest corner of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Newport Beach 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle, in Section 13, T.6 N, R.11 W (Figure 2). Industrial buildings including a power plant surround the project site to the east and portions of the west. A privately owned vacant lot is located to the west of the site and a Caltrans-owned relictual salt marsh area is found just north of the project site on the west side of Newland Street. Pacific Coast Highway lies to the south and Hamilton Avenue lies to the north of the site.





Newland Street Widening (Huntington Beach, CA)
PROJECT SITE VICINITY MAP
FIGURE 1





Newland Street Widening (Huntington Beach, CA)
PROJECT SITE LOCATION MAP
FIGURE 2

SECTION 2.0 - METHODOLOGY

Prior to performing the field survey, existing documentation relevant to the project site was reviewed. The most recent records of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB 2005) and the California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPSEI 2005) were reviewed for the quadrangles containing and surrounding the project site (Newport Beach and Seal Beach, California USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles). These databases contain records of reported occurrences of federally and state-listed endangered or threatened or proposed endangered or threatened species, former Federal Species of Concern (FSC), California Special Concern Species (CSC), and otherwise sensitive species or habitats that may occur within or in the immediate vicinity of the project site. From these sources, lists of sensitive wildlife species potentially occurring within the project site were compiled. Other literature that was reviewed included biological studies done for the County of Orange's Talbert Channel System Flood Control Improvements Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (MBA 1984, 1988), recent studies on habitats and sensitive species in the Huntington Beach Wetlands (Merkel & Associates 2004), and Belding's savannah sparrow surveys (Zembal and Hoffman 2002, USFWS 1991).

The reconnaissance-level survey was conducted on September 7, 2005 by Chambers Group biologist Noel Davis and botanist Heather Wendel between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The objective was to identify the vegetation communities and the distribution and relative abundance of general and sensitive wildlife habitats on the property. The survey was conducted by walking the property and recording plant and wildlife observations on standardized field data sheets. All data sheets are included in Appendix A.

Vegetation communities on the property were identified and qualitatively described. Biological resources on the property were inventoried and the potential for the presence of sensitive plant and wildlife species and sensitive habitats was assessed, focusing on those species listed as threatened or endangered by the state and federal agencies. In addition, a jurisdictional waters assessment was conducted. Notes were made of the general vegetation types, species observed, and potential plant and wildlife habitats existing on the property.

2.1 SOILS

Prior to conducting the surveys, soil maps for Orange County were referenced to determine the types of soil found on the project site (Wachtell 1978).

2.2 VEGETATION

Vegetation communities were determined in accordance with the categories set forth in Sawyer/Keeler-Wolf (1995) and Holland (1986). Plants of uncertain identity were collected and subsequently identified from keys, descriptions, and illustrations in Hickman (1993) and Munz (1974). Plant nomenclature follows that of *The Jepson Manual, Higher Plants of California* (Hickman 1993). A list of plant species observed during the survey is presented in Appendix B.

2.2.1 Special Status Plants

Sensitive plant species include all federal- and state-listed as endangered and/or threatened species and those that have been identified by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as having a limited distribution in California and throughout their range. Each species was ranked based on the following criteria:

Absent: Species was not observed during focused surveys conducted at an appropriate time for identification of the species or species is restricted to habitats that do not occur on the

project site, or suitable habitat conditions are not present onsite.

Low: No records exist of the species occurring within the project site or its immediate vicinity and/or habitats needed to support the species are of poor quality.

Moderate: Either a historical record exists of the species within the immediate vicinity of the project site (approximately 5 miles) or the habitat requirements associated with the species occur

on the project site.

Both a historical record exists of the species within the project site or its immediate High: vicinity (approximately 5 miles) and the habitat requirements associated with the species

occur on the project site.

Present: Species was observed on the project site at the time of the survey.

Location information on some sensitive species is not available; therefore, for survey purposes, landscape factors associated with species occurrence requirements may be considered sufficient to give a species a positive potential for occurrence.

In addition to the above-listed criteria, potential for occurrence is also based on levels of disturbance to a site, proximity to existing developments, age of historical records, and the amount of development and disturbance that has occurred during the time subsequent to the latest record.

2.2.2 Focused Plant Survey

Due to the presence of suitable environmental conditions for several plant species including three federal- and/or state-listed plant species, a focused survey was conducted concurrently with the reconnaissance-level survey during the appropriate flowering period for each species. The surveys consisted of walking the entire site, noting all species observed and recording GPS location information for any sensitive species found. Those sensitive plant species with a potential for occurrence onsite that were targeted during the survey include: Ventura marsh milk-vetch (Astragalus pycnostachyus var. lanosissimus), salt marsh bird's-beak (Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus), Gambel's water cress (Rorippa gambelii), Santa Barbara morning-glory (Calystegia sepium ssp. binghamiae), Los Angeles sunflower (Helianthus nuttallii ssp. parishii), and estuary seablite (Suaeda esteroa).

2.3 WILDLIFE

A reconnaissance-level field survey was performed throughout the site to characterize the distribution and relative abundance of wildlife, wildlife resources, and wildlife habitats within the project site. Habitat types within the project site were investigated on the project site and its immediate vicinity. Wildlife and wildlife sign (including tracks, scat, carcasses, burrows, nests, excavations, and vocalizations) were noted and recorded. The site was also assessed for its potential as a wildlife movement corridor.

2.3.1 Sensitive Wildlife Species

A sensitive species was considered as a potential inhabitant of the project site if its known geographical distribution encompassed part of the project site or if its distribution was near the site and general habitat requirements of the species were present (such as the presence of roosting, nesting, or foraging habitat, or a permanent water source). Furthermore, the potential for each species to occur within the project site was also assessed. The "potential for occurrence" ranking is defined as follows:

- Absent: Species is considered to be absent from the project area based on geographical range, absence of suitable habitat, and/or failure to detect the species during focused surveys.
- Low: There are no recent or historical records of the species occurring on the project site or its immediate vicinity (within approximately 5 miles) and the diagnostic habitat requirements strongly associated with the species do not occur within the project site or its immediate vicinity.
- Moderate: There is a recent or historical record of the species within the project site or its immediate vicinity (within approximately 5 miles) and a limited amount of suitable habitat associated with the species occurs on the project site or its immediate vicinity.
- ➤ High: There is both a recent or historical record of the species in or in the immediate vicinity of the project area, (within approximately 5 miles) and the diagnostic habitat requirements strongly associated with the species occur in or in the immediate vicinity of the project area.
- Present: The species was observed/detected during the survey.

2.4 JURISDICTIONAL ASSESSMENT

Chambers Group biologists, Noel Davis and Heather Wendel, examined the project site to identify USACE jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and CDFG jurisdiction pursuant to Section 1602 of the State of California Fish and Game Code. Prior to conducting the surveys, the USGS 7.5 minute Newport Beach quadrangle was referenced to determine locations of potential areas of USACE or CDFG jurisdiction. Suspected USACE/CDFG jurisdictional areas were field checked for the presence of definable channels and/or wetland vegetation, riparian habitat, soils, and hydrology. An assessment of suspected wetland habitats on the site were evaluated using the methodology set forth in the USACE's Wetland Delineation Manual (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1987). Data related to USACE-defined wetlands were recorded onto wetland data sheets (see Appendix A).

A geographical positioning system (GPS) was utilized to locate important geographical features within the project boundaries related to CDFG and USACE jurisdiction.

The methodology set forth in the 1987 Wetland Manual generally requires that, in order to be considered a wetland, the vegetation, soils, and hydrology of an area exhibit at least minimal hydric characteristics. While the manual provides great detail in methodology and allows for varying special conditions, a wetland should normally meet each of the following three criteria:

More than 50 percent of the dominant plant species at the site must be typical of wetlands (i.e., rated as facultative or wetter in the National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands). These plants are known as "hydrophytic vegetation";

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- > Soils must exhibit physical and/or chemical characteristics indicative of permanent or periodic saturation (e.g., a gleyed color, or mottles with a matrix of low chroma indicating a relatively consistent fluctuation between aerobic and anaerobic conditions). Such soils, known as "hydric soils", have characteristics that indicate they were developed in conditions where soil oxygen is limited by the presence of saturated soil for long periods during the growing season; and
- > Hydrologic characteristics must indicate that the ground is saturated to within 12 inches of the surface for at least five percent of the growing season during a normal rainfall year. Although the most reliable evidence of wetland hydrology may be provided by a gauging station or groundwater well data, such information is often limited for most areas. Thus, most hydrologic indicators are those that can be observed during field inspection. The following indicators provide some evidence of hydrology: (1) standing or flowing water; (2) water logged soils during the growing season; (3) water marks present on trees or other objects associated with a drainage; (4) drift lines, which are small piles of debris oriented in the direction of water movement through an area; (5) shelving; (6) destruction of terrestrial vegetation; and (7) thin layers of sediments deposited on leaves or other objects.

During the USACE wetland delineation, plants were categorized according to their probability to occur in wetlands versus non-wetlands, pursuant to the following categories:

- Obligate Wetland (OBL) Occur almost always (estimated probability >99 percent) under natural conditions in wetlands.
- > Facultative Wetland (FACW) Usually occur in wetlands (estimated probability 67 percent to 99 percent), but occasionally found in non-wetlands.
- > Facultative (FAC) Equally likely to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands (estimated probability 34 percent to 66 percent).
- > Facultative Upland (FACU) Usually occur in non-wetlands (estimated probability 67 percent to 99 percent), but occasionally found in wetlands.
- Obligate Upland (UPL) Occur in wetlands in another region, but occur almost always (estimated probability >99 percent) under natural conditions in non-wetlands in Southern California. All species not listed on the National List of Species that Occur in Wetlands [Reed 1988] are considered to be UPL.
- No Indicator (NI) NI was recorded for those species for which insufficient information was available to determine an indicator status.

A positive sign (+) or negative (-) sign is used with the Facultative category to more specifically define the frequency toward the higher or lower end of the category.

A soil pit was dug in each potential wetland area and the soil was examined for hydric characteristics. Soil color was determined using a Munsell soil color chart. In each potentially wetlands area the site was examined for positive indicators of hydrology. Figure 3 shows the locations of wetlands data plots.

In the absence of wetlands, the limits of USACE jurisdiction in non-tidal waters, including intermittent streams, extend to the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) which is defined at 33 CFR 328.3(e) as:

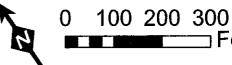
...that line on the shore established by the fluctuation of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

OHWMs were determined by water marks, drift and scour lines.



Figure 3 Newland Street Widening Soil Pit Locations Map





Pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 6, Sections 1600-1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, the CDFG regulates all diversions, obstructions, or changes to the natural flow or bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake, which supports fish or wildlife.

CDFG defines a "stream" (including creeks and rivers) as "a body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and supports fish or other aquatic life. This includes watercourses having surface or subsurface flow that supports or has supported riparian vegetation." CDFG's definition of "lake" includes "natural lakes or man-made reservoirs." CDFG takes jurisdiction over the limits of riparian vegetation on the banks of a lake or stream. Because the waterbodies in the project area had no riparian vegetation on their banks, CDFG jurisdiction was measured as the banks of the channels.

CDFG defines a wetlands as any area that has hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils or wetlands hydrology. An area that is positive for any one of these parameters is considered a wetlands by CDFG.

SECTION 3.0 - RESULTS

3.1 SOILS

Soils were determined in accordance with categories set forth by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Conservation Service and by referencing the Soil Survey of Orange County and Western Part of Riverside County, California (Wachtell 1978).

One soil association was found to exist on the project site: Tidal Flats dominate the site (Wachtell, 1978). These are nearly level areas adjacent to bays and lagoons along the coast. Often, they are covered in tidal overflow. Higher areas may only be covered during very high tides. Tidal Flats are stratified clayey to sandy deposits, which are poorly drained and high in salts. Vegetation varies from none in the low areas to sparse, salt-tolerant plants in the high areas. Runofff typically ponds and deposition from surrounding areas is a hazard. Present use is recreation and wildlife habitat. Some areas of this soil type have been dredged or filled and converted to beaches for urban use (Wachtell 1978).

3.2 VEGETATION

The Newland Street project site encompasses approximately 4 acres of undeveloped land. There were four vegetation communities identified on the project site. These include Southern Coastal Salt Marsh, Coastal Freshwater Marsh, Disturbed/Ruderal, and Ornamental Landscaping vegetation.

Representative site photographs depicting the vegetation onsite are included as Appendix C. The following sections summarize the principal characteristics of the vegetation communities and general locations of these communities within the project site. A list of plant species that were observed during the surveys is presented in Appendix B.

Southern Coastal Salt Marsh

Southern Coastal Salt Marsh is a highly productive, herbaceous and suffructescent, salt-tolerant community forming moderate to dense cover which can grow up to 3 feet in height (Holland 1986). Soils are usually hydric and subject to regular tidal inundation by salt water for at least part of each year. The Southern Coastal Salt Marsh areas present onsite are highly disturbed. The Southern Salt Marsh habitat within the project site consists of three small patches of salt marsh vegetation amongst the rip rap adjacent to the Newland Street Bridge in the Huntington Beach Flood Control Channel. Plant species typical of this relictual community found onsite along the riprap banks of the Huntington Channel include saltgrass (Distichlis spicata) and pickleweed (Salicornia virginica). Other species found in these salt marsh areas onsite include goosefoot (Chenopodium sp.), cudweed aster (Lessingia filaginifolia), Douglas' nightshade (Solanum douglassii), and prickly sow thistle (Sonchus asper ssp. asper).

Coastal Freshwater Marsh

Coastal Freshwater Marsh is dominated by perennial, emergent monocots to 1 to 5 feet in height. The canopy is often completely closed and site may be permanently flooded by freshwater causing accumulation of deep, peaty soils (Holland 1986). The unimproved drainage ditch for Edison Way onsite is comprised of disturbed Coastal Freshwater Marsh species. Species present onsite in this community include sea-fig (Carpobrotus chilensis), smilo grass (Piptatherum milaceum), annual beard grass (Polypogon monospeliensis), river bulrush (Scirpus maritimus), saltmarsh sandspurrey (Spergularia marina), narrow-leaved cattail (Typha angustifolia), and broad-leaved cattail (Typha latifolia).

Ruderal/Disturbed

Disturbed and ruderal areas are often a result of disturbances caused by humans. Ruderal areas are typically characterized by heavily compacted or frequently disturbed soils. Plant species occurring in

ruderal areas are adapted to survive in these conditions and readily colonize disturbed ground. Ruderal areas within the project site exhibit varying degrees of past surface disturbance. Areas of disturbance are often devoid of vegetation, sparse vegetation comprised of colonizing species, or large amounts of mostly non-native colonizing species. Disturbed/ruderal areas within the project boundary were found along the western side of Newland Street adjacent to the private property lot and immediately adjacent to Newland Street along the width of the project site. The plant species that occur in ruderal areas onsite include spearscale (*Atriplex triangularis*), ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), foxtail chess (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. rubens), horseweed (*Conyza* spp.), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*).

Ornamental Landscaping

Ornamental landscaping includes areas whose vegetation is dominated by non-native horticultural plants. Ornamental landscaping areas exist south of the drainage ditch on both sides of Newland Street and adjacent to the commercial development. The vegetation in these areas includes: agave (*Agave* sp.), African daisy (*Dimorphotheca pluvialis*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), slender-leaved iceplant (*Mesembryanthemum nodifloum*), myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*), oleander (*Nerium oleander*), and Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*).

3.3 SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI) literature review resulted in a list of 22 sensitive plant species that have records of occurrence on or within the same quad as the project site. Five of the 22 sensitive plant species are federal- and/or state-listed as endangered, threatened, or candidate species.

Of the 22 special status plant species evaluated for their potential occurrence on the project site, 1 species, Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulter*), was determined to have a moderate potential to occur, 1 species, mud nama (*Nama stenocarpum*), was determined to have a low potential to occur onsite, and 14 species were considered to be absent from the site prior to conducting the focused survey. The two sensitive plant species with a potential to occur onsite are not federally or state-listed as threatened or endangered.

Species considered absent from the site due to a lack of suitable habitat included chaparral sand-verbena (Abronia villosa var. aurita), aphanisma (Aphanisma blitoides), Coulter's saltbush (Atriplex coulteri), south coast saltscale (Atriplex pacifica), Parish's brittlescale (Atriplex parishii), Davidson's saltscale (Atriplex serenana var. davidsonii), southern tarplant (Centromadia parryi ssp. australis), San Fernando Valley spineflower (Chorizanthe parryi var. fernandina), many-stemmed dudleya (Dudleya multicaulis), Laguna Beach dudleya (Dudleya stolonifera), prostrate navarretia (Navarretia prostrata), coast woolly-heads (Nemacaulis denudata var. denudata), Sanford's arrowhead (Sagittaria sanfordii), and San Bernardino aster (Symphyotrichum defoliatum). The remaining six species with a potential to occur onsite due to the presence of suitable habitat, but which were not observed during the focused survey and therefore are considered absent from the project site include: Ventura marsh milk-vetch (Astragalus pycnostachyus var. lanosissimus), Santa Barbara morning-glory (Calystegia sepium ssp. binghamiae), salt marsh bird's-beak (Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus), Los Angeles sunflower (Helianthus nuttallii ssp. parishii), Gambel's water cress (Rorippa gambelii), and estuary seablite (Suaeda esteroa).

These special status plant species, their current listing status, their habitat requirements, and the justification for their potential occurrence or absence from the site are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 Sensitive Plant Species Potentially Occurring Within the Newland Street Widening Project Site

Special Status Species	Status				Species Status Habit, Habitat, and Distribution			Flowering Period	Potential to Occur Onsite	
Threatened or Endangere	d Species				-					
Astragalus pycnostachyus var. lanosissimus Ventura marsh milk-vetch	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	END END List 1B 3-3-3	Perennial herb. Occurs in coastal dunes and edges of coastal salt marshes and swamps. Up to 115 feet in elevation.	June – October	Absent: Disturbed habitat is present onsite, however no known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site and this species is presumed extinct (last seen in Orange County in 1967). This species would have been observed during the focused survey.					
Chorizanthe parryi var. fernandina San Fernando Valley spineflower	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	CAN END List 1B 3-3-3	Annual herb. Occurs in coastal scrub on sandy soils. From 10 to 4,000 feet in elevation.	April – June	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site.					
Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus salt marsh bird's-beak	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	END END List 1B 2-2-2	Hemiparasitic annual herb. Occurs in coastal dunes and coastal salt marshes and swamps. Up to 100 feet in elevation.	May – October	Absent: Disturbed habitat is present onsite. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. This species would have been observed during the focused survey.					
<i>Dudleya stolonifera</i> Laguna Beach dudleya	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	THR THR List 1B 3-3-3	Stoloniferous perennial herb. Occurs in coastal scrub, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland on rocky soils. Endemic to Orange County. From 30 to 850 feet in elevation.	May – July	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site.					
Rorippa gambelii Gambel's water cress	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D	END THR List 1B 3-3-2	Rhizomatous perennial herb. Occurs in freshwater or brackish marshes and swamps. From 15 to 1,085 feet in elevation.	April – September	Absent: Disturbed habitat is present for this species in the drainage ditch onsite. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. This species would have been observed during the focused survey.					
Abronia villosa var. aurita chaparral sand-verbena	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1B 2-3-2	Annual herb. Occurs in coastal scrub and chaparral in sandy soils. From 260 to 5,250 feet in elevation.	January – August	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite even though known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site, less than 5 miles away in the Santa Ana River.					

Table 1 (continued) Sensitive Plant Species Potentially Occurring Within the Newland Street Widening Project Site

Special Status Species	Special Status Species Status Habit, Habitat, and Distribution		Flowering Period	Potential to Occur Onsit	
Aphanisma blitoides aphanisma	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1B 2-2-2	Annual herb. Occurs in coastal scrub, coastal dunes, and coastal bluff scrub in sandy or clay soils. Up to 1,000 feet in elevation.	March – June	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite. No knowr occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site.
Atriplex coulteri Coulter's saltbush	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1B 2-2-2	Perennial herb. Occurs in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland on alkaline or clay soils. From 30 to 1,510 feet in elevation.	March October	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. This species would have been observed during the focused survey.
Atriplex pacifica south coast saltscale	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1B 3-2-2	Annual herb. Occurs in chenopod scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, coastal bluff scrub, and playas, often in alkali soils. Up to 1,640 feet in elevation.	March – October	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite. No know occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. This species would have been observed during the focused survey.
Atriplex parishii Parish's brittlescale	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1B 3-3-2	Annual herb. Occurs in chenopod scrub, vernal pools, and playas, usually, on drying alkali flay with fine soils. From 10 to 6,230 feet in elevation.	June – October	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite. No know occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. This species would have been observed durithe focused survey.
Atriplex serenana var. davidsonii Davidson's saltscale	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1B 3-2-2	Annual herb. Occurs in coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub on alkaline soils. From 10 to 820 feet in elevation.	April – October	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite despite the fact that known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site, less than 5 miles away, in Balboa and Sea Beach. This species wo have been observed durithe focused survey.
Calystegia sepium ssp. binghamiae Santa Barbara morning- glory	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1A	Rhizomatous perennial herb. Occurs in coastal marshes and swamps. Up to 100 feet in elevation.	April – May	Absent: Disturbed habitate exists within the project boundary. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. This species would have been observed during the focused survey.

Table 1 (continued) Sensitive Plant Species Potentially Occurring Within the Newland Street Widening Project Site

Special Status Species	Sta	itus	Habit, Habitat, and Distribution	Flowering Period	Potential to Occur Onsite		
Centromadia parryi ssp. australis southern tarplant	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1B 3-3-2	Annual herb. Occurs in vernal pools, margins of marshes and swamps, and vernally mesic valley and foothill grasslands, sometimes with saltgrass on alkaline soils. Up to 1,400 feet in elevation.	May November	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite despite the fact that known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site, less than 5 miles away, in the Newport Slough near the mouth of the Santa Ana River. This species would have been observed during the focused survey.		
<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i> many-stemmed dudleya	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1B 1-2-3	Perennial herb. Occurs in coastal scrub, chaparral, and valley and foothill grassland, usually on clay soils or grassy slopes. Up to 2,590 feet in elevation.	April - July	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite. No knowr occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site.		
<i>Helianthus nuttallii</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i> Los Angeles sunflower	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1A	Rhizomatous perennial herb. Occurs in coastal salt and freshwater marshes and swamps. From 15 to 1640 feet in elevation.	August – October	Absent: Disturbed habita for this species is present onsite. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. This species would have been observed during the focused survey.		
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri Coulter's goldfields	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1B 2-3-2	Annual herb. Occurs in coastal salt marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grasslands, playas, sinks, and vernal pools. Up to 4,000 feet in elevation.	February – June	Moderate: Disturbed habitat for this species is present onsite and knowr occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site, less than 5 miles aw in Bolsa Chica.		
<i>Nama stenocarpum</i> mud nama	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 2 3-2-1	Annual to perennial herb. Occurs in marshes and swamps, and along lake margins and riverbanks. From 15 to 1,640 feet in elevation.	January – July	Low: Disturbed habitat for this species is present onsite and known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site, less than 5 miles aw in Costa Mesa.		
Navarretia prostrata prostrate navarretia	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1B 2-3-3	Annual herb. Occurs in coastal scrub, vernal pools, and valley and foothill grasslands in mesic soils. From 50 to 2,300 feet in elevation.	April – July	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite despite the fact that known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site, less than 5 miles aw in Fairview regional Park Costa Mesa.		

Table 1 (continued) Sensitive Plant Species Potentially Occurring Within the Newland Street Widening Project Site

Special Status Species	Sta	ntus	Habit, Habitat, and Distribution	Flowering Period	Potential to Occur Onsit
Nemacaulis denudata var. denudata coast woolly-heads	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D:	None None List 1B 2-2-2	Annual herb. Occurs in coastal dunes. Up to 330 feet in elevation.	April – September	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. This species would have been observed durin the focused survey.
Sagittaria sanfordii Sanford's arrowhead	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D	None None List 1B 2-2-3	Rhizomatous perennial herb. Occurs in shallow freshwater swamps and marshes. Up to 2,000 feet in elevation.	May – October	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. This species would have been observed durin the focused survey.
Suaeda esteroa estuary seablite	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D	None None List 1B 2-2-2	Perennial herb. Occurs in coastal salt marshes and swamps. Up to 15 feet in elevation.	May October	Absent: Disturbed habitat for this species is present onsite and known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site, less than 5 miles awa in Newport Slough. However, this species would have been observed during the focused survey
Symphyotrichum defoliatum San Bernardino aster	Fed: CA: CNPS: R-E-D	None None List 1B 2-2-3	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Occurs in meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland near ditches, streams and springs. From 10 to 6,695 feet in elevation.	July – November	Absent: Suitable habitat for this species is not present onsite. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. This species would have been observed durin the focused survey.
ederal designations: (Feder END: Federal-listed,			es Act, USFWS):		
THR: Federal-listed, PTH: Federal-listed, CAN: Candidate spec	threatened proposed-				
State designations: (Californ		red Specie	se Act CDEC)		

State-listed, threatened.

State-listed as rare (Listed "Rare" animals have been re-designated as Threatened, but Rare plants have retained the

Rare designation.)

Table 1 (continued) Sensitive Plant Species Potentially Occurring Within the Newland Street Widening Project Site

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) designations: (Note: According to CNPS [Skinner and Pavlik 1994], plants on Lists 1B and 2 meet definitions for listing as threatened or endangered under Section 1901, Chapter 10 of the California Fish and Game Code. This interpretation is inconsistent with other definitions. See text.) List 1A: Plants presumed extinct in California. List 1B: Plants rare and endangered in California and throughout their range. List 2: Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California but more commons elsewhere in their range. List 3: Plants about which we need more information; a review list.

List 4: Plants of limited distribution; a watch list.

CNPS R-E-D Code:

1: Rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction or extirpation is low at this time.

2: Occurrence confined to several populations or one extended population.

3: Occurrence limited to one or a few highly restricted populations, or present in such small numbers that it is seldom reported.

Endangerment

- 1: Not endangered.
- 2: Endangered in a portion of its range.
- 3 Endangered throughout its range.

Rarity

- Distribution 1: More or less widespread outside California.

 - 2: Rare outside California.
 - 3: Endemic to California (i.e., does not occur outside California).
 - *: Extirpated (locally eliminated, but may be doing well elsewhere in range).
 - ?: Uncertainty about distribution or identity.

Source: California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB), California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI) Newport Beach and Seal Beach, California 7.5-minute quadrangles, 2005.

Five sensitive plant species are federal- and/or state-listed as endangered, threatened or are a candidate species for one of these listings. None of these listed species has a potential to occur within the project boundary; either suitable habitat does not exist onsite, or the species was not observed onsite during the focused survey and is therefore considered absent from the project site. These listed species include:

Ventura marsh milk-vetch (Astragalus pycnostachyus var. lanosissimus) is a federally and state-listed endangered species, with a CNPS listing of 1B. It is a perennial herb, which occurs in coastal dunes and edges of coastal salt marshes and swamps at elevations reaching to 115 feet. Its flowering period is from June to October. Disturbed suitable habitat for this species is present onsite; however, and this species would have been observed during the survey. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site and this species was last seen in Orange County in 1967. Therefore, Ventura marsh milk-vetch is considered absent from the project site.

San Fernando Valley spineflower (Chorizanthe parryi var. fernandina) is a state-listed endangered species and a candidate for a federal listing. This annual herb occurs in coastal scrub on sandy soils from 10 to 4,000 feet in elevation and blooms between April and June. Suitable habitat is not present onsite. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. Therefore, San Fernando Valley spineflower is considered absent from the project site.

Salt marsh bird's-beak (Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus) is a federally and state-listed endangered species with a CNPS listing of 1B. This hemiparasitic annual herb blooms from May to October and occurs in coastal dunes and coastal salt marshes and swamps up to 100 feet in elevation. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. Disturbed suitable habitat exists onsite; however this species would have been observed onsite during the survey. Therefore, salt marsh bird'sbeak is considered absent from the project site.

Laguna Beach dudleya (Dudleya stolonifera) is a state-listed and federally listed threatened species with a CNPS listing of 1B. This stoloniferous perennial herb occurs in coastal scrub, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland on rocky soils. This species occurs at elevations of 30 to 850 feet. It is endemic to Orange County, and has a flowering period from May to July. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur on the project site and no known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. Therefore, Laguna Beach dudleya is considered absent from the project site.

Gambel's water cress (Rorippa gambelii) is a state-listed threatened and federally listed endangered species. It is a rhizomatous perennial herb with a flowering period between April and September. It occurs in freshwater or brackish marshes and swamps from 15 to 1,085 feet in elevation. No known occurrences are reported within the vicinity of the site. Disturbed habitat for this species is present onsite; however the species would have been observed onsite during the survey. Therefore, Gambel's water cress is considered absent from the project site.

3.4 WILDLIFE

The project site is adjacent to Newland Street in developed coastal Orange County. Vegetation in the project area consists primarily of ornamental landscaping or sparsely vegetated ruderal/disturbed areas. A man-made drainage ditch with no outlet occurs between Newland Street and the power plant and supports a small amount of freshwater marsh habitat dominated by river bulrush and cattails. Newland Street crosses the Huntington Beach Channel. The channel is subjected to tidal influence in this location (MBA 1984). The channel where the bridge will be widened consists of riprap with some sand between the boulders. Small, sparse patches of pickleweed grow in the sand on three of the four sides of the bridge.

On the west side of Newland Street, north of the Huntington Beach Channel is an approximately 16 acre undeveloped parcel owned by Caltrans. This piece of property is relictual salt marsh dominated by pickleweed. The property is part of the Newland Marsh. It will not be affected directly by the proposed project but wildlife inhabiting the area could be affected indirectly by light and noise during construction. The Newland Marsh also extends to the southwest side of the Huntington Beach Channel. The Newland Marsh on the southwest side of the channel, approximately 1,200 feet from the project site, is higher quality salt marsh habitat than the northeastern portion of Newland Marsh because it receives some tidal influence (Merkel & Associates 2004).

Aquatic Species

No samples of fishes or aquatic invertebrates at the location of the Newland Street Bridge were taken during this survey. In 1984, Michael Brandman Associates (MBA) sampled fishes and invertebrates in the channels of the Talbert Valley Channel system, including a station downstream of the Huntington Beach Channel confluence with the Talbert Channel (MBA 1984). They found that the channels did not support diverse or abundant aquatic communities. A total of 37 taxa of aquatic invertebrates were collected at the station downstream of the Talbert/Huntington Beach channel confluence. Most of the species were typical of southern California estuarine environments. The most abundant invertebrate was the tube building worm, Streblospio benedicti, a non-native species characteristic of estuarine and harbor environments. Six species of fish were collected by beach seine downstream of the confluence. All species caught were typical southern California estuarine species. Topsmelt (Atherinops affinis) was the most abundant fish. A total of 7 juvenile California halibut (Paralichthys californicus) was collected in the beach seines. Any of the species collected in the MBA surveys downstream of the Talbert/Huntington Beach Channel confluence could occur in the project area of the Newland Street Bridge. However, the MBA station was much closer to the ocean than the project area. Conditions for aquatic life become more stressful with increasing distance from the ocean. Therefore, the aquatic community in the vicinity of Newland Street would be expected to be less diverse than that downstream of the confluence and most likely would be characterized by the hardier species.

Reptiles and Amphibians

There were no reptile species observed during the reconnaissance survey. Species that would be expected in the Newland Marsh and possibly the ruderal areas along the roadside include side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) and, perhaps, common kingsnake (*Lampropeltis gettulus*) (MBA 1984). Because of the lack of freshwater habitat amphibians would not be expected in the project area. Although the ditch had some standing water, no amphibians or signs of amphibians were observed.

Birds

The only birds observed on the project site during the reconnaissance survey were three urban-adapted species: mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), rock dove (*Columba livia*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). The rock dove and house sparrow are non-native.

Although no waterbirds were observed in the Huntington Beach Channel at the time of the survey, a variety of species probably occur there from time to time. Waterbird species that would be expected include western (*Larus occidentalis*), ringbilled (*L. delawrensis*) and California (*L. californicus*) gulls and some species of waterfowl such as mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). The State and federal endangered California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*) forages in the Talbert Valley Channel system, although its primary feeding areas are offshore and near the Santa Ana River mouth (Atwood and Minsky 1983). Because the walls are vertical except for the small amount of rip rap area adjacent to the bridge, shorebird use of the project area would be expected to be minimal. The State endangered Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*), breeds in the adjacent Newland Marsh and may occasionally forage in the pickleweed adjacent to the bridge. Sensitive bird species are discussed in more detail below.

In addition to Belding's savannah sparrows, other bird species that would be expected to occur in the north eastern Newland Marsh adjacent to the project area include American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) also probably forage in the area.

No birds were observed in the ditch east of Newland Street at the time of the survey but bird tracks were seen. Because the freshwater marsh habitat onsite is very small and because the ditch is surrounded by industrial buildings (power plant) on the east and Newland Street on the west, it provides minimal habitat value for marsh-associated birds. However, wetlands birds such as herons and egrets and marsh wrens may visit the site occasionally to forage.

Mammals

There were no mammal species directly observed during the field survey. Mammal tracks observed included domestic dog (Canis familiaris) and house cat (Felis catus) tracks in the ditch near the power plant and raccoon (Procyon lotor) tracks in Newland Marsh near the Huntington Channel. Other mammal species that would be expected in the project area include California ground squirrel (Spermophilus beecheyi), western harvest mouse (Reithrodontomys megalotis), house mouse (Mus musculus), Norway rat (Rattus rattus), southern pocket gopher (Thomomys umbrinus), Virginia opossum (Didelphis virginiana), striped skunk (Mephitis mephitis) and possibly coyote (Canis latrans) (MBA 1984).

3.5 SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES

Sensitive Wildlife

After a thorough literature review and an assessment of the various habitat types within the project site, it was determined that 11 sensitive wildlife species have the potential to occur within the project site. All of these species are listed as federal and/or state endangered or threatened, or proposed as endangered,

threatened, or candidate species. Each of the sensitive wildlife species was evaluated for their potential occurrence on the project site, and each has either a low potential to occur or is considered absent. Table 3 provides a list of the federal- and state-listed endangered, threatened, candidate, and sensitive wildlife species that have the potential to occur within the project site. A brief description of the sensitive wildlife species follows.

Table 2
Sensitive Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence (PFO) Within the Project Site

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status Listing	PFO	Habitat	Comments
CLASS BRANCHIOPODA	FAIRY SHRIMP				
Branchinecta sandiegonensis	San Diego fairy shrimp	FE	Absent	Prefers moderately deep vernal or ephemeral ponds. This species is endemic to San Diego and Orange County mesas.	There is not any vernal pool habitat occurring on the site because it has been heavily disturbed by commercial development and roads. Although the species has been recorded in Fairview Park (Costa Mesa), it is considered absent from the site because of the lack of vernal pool habitat.
CLASS AVES	BIRDS				
RALLIDAE	RAILS, GALLINULES, COOTS				
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	California black rail	ST	Low	Occurs mainly in salt marshes that border larger bays and that are dominated by pickleweed. It also occurs in freshwater and brackish marshes.	There is not any suitable nesting habitat for this species on the project site. Additionally, the site does not provide likely foraging opportunities for this species. The closest known occurrence was in Upper Newport Bay (1970).
Rallus longirostris levipes	Light-footed clapper rail	FE, SE	Low	Occurs in salt marshes dominated by cordgrass and pickleweed and traversed by tidal sloughs. Requires dense growth of either pickleweed or cordgrass for nesting.	Three small patches of pickleweed occur in the project site that would provide limited foraging habitat. The species was recorded in Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (1993) and a large nesting population occurs in Upper Newport Bay (1997).
CHARADRIIDAE	PLOVERS				
Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus	Western snowy plover	FT, CSC	Low	Occurs on sandy beaches, salt pond levees, and shores of large alkali lakes. It needs sandy, gravelly, or friable soils for nesting.	The species was recorded in the Newland Street marsh in 1986. Wintering snowy plovers are common on the beach near the Talbert Channel Outlet (L. Hays, U.S. F.W.S., pers. comm. 2005). The nearest nesting population is in the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

Table 2 (continued) Sensitive Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence (PFO) Within the Project Site

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status Listing	PFO	Habitat	Comments
LARIDAE	SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS				
Sterna antillarum browni	California least tern (nesting colony)	FE, SE	High	Nests along the coast from San Francisco to northern Baja California. It is a colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates, such as sand beaches and alkali flats.	There is not any suitable nesting habitat for this species on the project site. Least terns nest on the beach between the Santa Ana River mouth and the Talbert Channel outlet about 1.5 miles from the project site. They would be expected to forage at times in the Huntington Beach Channel.
SYLVIIDAE	OLD WORLD WARBLERS, GNATCATCHERS				
Polioptila californica californica	Coastal California gnatcatcher	FT, CSC	Low	Occurs in coastal sage scrub vegetation on mesas, arid hillsides, and in washes and nests almost exclusively in California sagebrush.	There is not any suitable nesting habitat for this species on the project site. Additionally, the site does not provide likely foraging opportunities for this species.
EMBERIZIDAE	SPARROWS, WARBLERS, BUNTINGS AND RELATIVES				
Passerculus sandwichensis	Belding's savannah sparrow	SE	Moder ate	Inhabits coastal salt marshes from Santa Barbara to San Diego. Nests in pickleweed on the margins of tidal flats.	Three small patches of pickleweed that would provide limited foraging habitat occur in the project site. It was estimated that 18 pairs were present in the Newland Street marsh in 2001(Zembal and Hoffman 2002).

Table 2 (continued) Sensitive Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence (PFO) Within the Project Site

Status Codes	Definitions of Occurrence Probability:
Federal (FED) FE = Federally listed; Endangered FE* = Federally listed within Santa Barbara County	 Absent from Site – Focused survey failed to detect the species or the site is completely absent of suitable habitat. Low Potential for Occurrence – Species is restricted to habitats that do not occur within the project site or no historical records exits of the species occurring within the project site or its immediate vicinity, and/or the habitats needed to support the species on the site are of poor quality. Moderate Potential for Occurrence – Either a historical record exists of the species within the immediate vicinity of the project site and/or the habitat requirements associated with the species occur within the project site. High Potential for Occurrence – There is either a recent historical record of the species occurring within the project site or its immediate vicinity and/or the diagnostic habitat requirements strongly associated with the species occur within the project site or its' immediate vicinity. Species Present – The species was observed within the project site at the time of the survey. Source: 2005 California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB), Whittier, La Habra, Yorba Linda, Los Alamitos, Anaheim, Orange, Seal Beach, Newport Beach, and Tustin USGS quads.

Sensitive Wildlife Species Descriptions

This section provides a brief description of the biology of the sensitive wildlife species that have the potential to occur on the project site.

San Diego fairy shrimp is federal-listed as endangered, is endemic to San Diego and Orange County mesas, and prefers moderately deep vernal or ephemeral ponds. There are several CNDDB records in Fairview Park, Costa Mesa, California, but these are greater than 5 miles from the project site. Although the project area is within this species' range, there is no suitable vernal pool or ephemeral pond habitat present in the site and it is, therefore, considered to be absent from the site.

California black rail is state-listed as threatened and mainly inhabits salt marshes bordering large bays. It occurs in areas heavily vegetated with pickleweed but can also be found in freshwater and brackish marshes at low elevations. A California black rail was reported in Upper Newport Bay in 1970, but there are not any CNDDB records of this species in or near the project site. This species has a low potential for occurrence on the site because the site lacks suitable nesting habitat and offers limited foraging opportunities. Marsh habitat on the site is limited to three small patches of pickleweed and a small (0.02 acre) isolated patch of freshwater marsh.

Light-footed clapper rail is federal- and state-listed as endangered and is found in salt marshes traversed by tidal sloughs, where cordgrass and pickleweed are the dominant vegetation. Dense stands of either pickleweed or cordgrass are necessary for nesting. Several CNDDB records are known for this species, including Upper Newport Bay, Seal Beach, San Joaquin Marsh, and Bolsa Chica. Upper

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Newport Bay supports a large nesting population. There are only three small, isolated patches of pickleweed on the project site, which would not provided suitable nesting habitat and would provide limited foraging opportunities.

Western snowy plover is federal-listed as threatened and is found on sandy beaches, salt pond levees, and shores of large alkali lakes. This species needs sandy, gravelly, or friable soils for nesting. Several CNDDB records are known for this species, including Sunset Aquatic Park, Huntington State Beach, Sunset Beach, Anaheim Landing, Bolsa Chica and the Newland Street Marsh. The nearest nesting site is at Bolsa Chica about 4.5 miles to the northwest of the project site. Substantial numbers of wintering snowy plovers have been observed in the vicinity of the Talbert Channel outlet about 1.5 miles southeast of the project site (L. Hays, U.S.F.W.S., pers. comm. 2005). There is no suitable nesting habitat and limited foraging opportunities for this species on the site; therefore, it has a low potential for occurrence on the site.

California least tern is federal- and state-listed as endangered and nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. This species is a colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates, sand beaches, alkali flats, land fills, or paved areas. Least terns are only present in southern California during their breeding season of April 15 through September 15. This species has been recorded in the CNDDB in Bolsa Chica, Huntington State Beach, Sunset Aquatic Park, Anaheim Bay, and Upper Newport Bay. It nests on the beach between the Talbert Channel outlet and the Santa Ana River mouth about 1.5 miles southeast of the project site and at Bolsa Chica about 4.5 miles northwest of the project site. Least terns from the Huntington Beach colony forage primarily in nearshore ocean waters and the Santa Ana River mouth but also forage at times in the flood control channels of the Talbert Valley Channel system (Atwood and Minsky 1983). It is likely that they occasionally forage in the Huntington Beach Channel in the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, least terns are considered to have a high potential to occur on the site.

California gnatcatcher is federal-listed as threatened, is a California Species of Special Concern, and is an obligate resident of southern California coastal sage scrub communities. This species is found near arid hillsides, mesas, and washes. CNDDB reports of this species have been recorded near Upper Newport Bay, Newport Dunes, Huntington Harbor, and in Fountain Valley. The site does not provide suitable nesting habitat because there is no coastal sage scrub habitat located on the site. The site also offers limited foraging opportunities for this species; therefore, it has a low potential to occur.

Belding's savannah sparrow is state-listed as endangered and occurs from Santa Barbara to San Diego County. It nests in pickleweed on and around the margins of tidal flats. There are multiple CNDDB records of this species near the project site, including Newland Street Marsh, Anaheim Bay Marsh, Sunset Aquatic Park, Bolsa Chica, Brookhurst Marsh, Santa Ana River mouth, and Upper Newport Bay. In 2001, 18 pairs of Belding's savannah sparrow were recorded as breeding in the Newland Street Marsh (Zembal and Hoffman 2001). This number is down from 32 in 1991 and 20 in 1996. The most recent survey did not specify how many pairs were breeding in the northeastern portion of the Newland Street Marsh adjacent to the project site compared to the number breeding in the better habitat of the southwestern portion of the Newland Street Marsh. However, in the 1991 survey, the location of the breeding pairs was specified and 19 pair were in the southwestern part of the marsh and 13 pair were in the northeastern portion (USFWS 1991). Therefore, it is likely that the portion of the marsh near the project site does support breeding Belding's savannah sparrows. Within the project site itself, pickleweed marsh is limited to three small patches amongst the rip rap near the Newland Street Bridge. This pickleweed is too sparse and isolated to support breeding but Belding's savannah sparrows might occasionally forage in these areas. Therefore, Belding's savannah sparrow are considered to have a moderate potential to occur on the project site.

3.6 JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION

Two areas of potential USACE and CDFG jurisdiction were identified on the site – the Huntington Beach Channel and the isolated ditch between the power plant and Newland Street. Within the Huntington Beach Channel, the OHM in the project area was 57 feet in width on the east side of the Newland Street Bridge and 60 Feet in width on the west side of the bridge. Widening of the bridge will extend the existing reinforced concrete box culvert in the Huntington Channel for a distance of 20 feet on either side of the bridge. Therefore the proposed project will affect 1,200 square feet of area under USACE jurisdiction on the west side of the bridge and 1,140 square feet on the east side of the bridge. The total area under USACE jurisdiction that will be affected by extension of the reinforced concrete box culvert in the Huntington Beach channel would be 2,340 square feet or 0.05 acres. As part of the project, the rip rap adjacent to the bridge would be removed and replaced with a vertical wall. The rip rap on the north west, northeast, and southwest sides of the bridge contained small areas of pickleweed. A data plot was established at each of these locations to determine if these sites met the USACE definition of wetlands (Data Plots 1, 2, and 3 on Figure 3). Each of these sites was dominated by pickleweed (Salicornia virginica) which has an indicator status of OBL, wetlands obligate. Therefore, each data plot met the criteria for hydrophytic vegetation. Each data plot had soil that was saturated in the upper 12 inches, was in a defined channel, and had water marks and drift lines. Therefore, the data plots all showed positive evidence of hydrology. Finally, all three data plots had sandy soils with organic streaking. Soil color cannot be used as an indicator in sandy soils. However, dark organic streaks are an indicator of hydric sandy soils. Therefore, because all three data plots in the channel had positive evidence of hydrophytic vegetation, wetlands hydrology, and hydric soils, each of the three areas was considered to be in a wetland. The wetlands patch on the northeast side of the bridge was 9 square feet. The patch on the southwest side was 25 square feet. The pickleweed patch on the northwest side was 32 square feet. Therefore, the total wetlands area that would be affected by the proposed widening of the Newland Street bridge is 66 square feet or 0.002 acres.

CDFG jurisdiction in the Huntington Beach Channel extended from the tops of the banks. This width was 77 feet. Therefore, the amount of area under CDFG jurisdiction that would be affected by the extension of the reinforced box culvert to widen the Newland Street Bridge would be 1,540 feet on each side of the bridge for a total of 3,080 square feet or 0.07 acres.

The drainage ditch also was inspected for USACE and CDFG jurisdiction. The ditch is not a natural channel but a constructed ditch with no outlet. During the wet season it fills with water that needs to be pumped out. On the day of the survey, there was clear evidence that water had previously filled the ditch and standing water was still present at the southern end of the ditch. The ditch was measured as 220 feet in length with an average width between the OHM of 7 feet. The ditch contained approximately 810 square feet (0.02 acres) of vegetated area. A data plot was established in this area to determine whether the vegetated area met the 3 parameter definition of wetlands. The vegetation was dominated by river bulrush (Scirpus maritimis) (indicator status OBL), rabbitsfoot grass (Polypogon monspiliensis) (indicator status FACW+), smilo grass (Piptatherum milaceum), (indicator status UPL), salt grass (Distichlis spicata) (indicator status FACW), and cattails (Typha angustifolia and T. latifolia) (indicator status OBL). Because more than 50 percent of the dominant plant species had an indicator status of FAC or wetter, the data plot was determined to meet the criteria for hydrophytic vegetation. The soil was saturated in the upper 12 inches and there were watermarks. Therefore the data plot showed positive indications of hydrology. The soil color was gleyed with a color of 3N. Therefore, the data plot was determined to have positive indication of hydric soils. Because the data plot showed positive indication of hydrophytic vegetation, wetlands hydrology and wetlands soils, it was determined to be in a wetlands. The wetlands area was 810 square feet or 0.02 acres. However, because the ditch is not a natural drainage and because it is isolated from Waters of the United States, it was determined that it does not fall under the jurisdiction of the USACE. Because no permit will be required under Section 404, a Section 401 Water Quality Certification would not be required. However filling of the ditch would still be regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2004-004-DWQ. The amount of area within the OHM of the ditch is 1,540 square feet or

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SECTION 4.0 - CONCLUSIONS

4.1 SENSITIVE PLANTS

Of the 22 special status plant species evaluated for their potential occurrence onsite, only 2 species had a moderate or low potential for occurrence onsite and could not be included in the focused survey. These two sensitive (not federally or state-listed as threatened or endangered) species include Coulter's goldfields and mud nama. Focused surveys to confirm the presence or absence of these two species are recommended, but are not required as the plants are not listed species. Fourteen of the 22 species would have been flowering and easily recognizable at the time of the survey. These fourteen species were not observed during the survey and are therefore considered absent from the site. The remaining species also are considered absent from the project site due to a lack of suitable habitat onsite. No federally or state-listed as threatened or endangered, or candidate species have a potential to occur onsite and are therefore considered absent from the project site.

4.2 SENSITIVE WILDLIFE

A total of 11 sensitive wildlife species were identified as having the potential to occur within the project site. Nine of the 11 species were determined to be either absent from the site due to lack of suitable habitat or have a low potential for occurrence due to the limited amount of low quality habitat. The two species that have a moderate to high potential to occur onsite are the state and federal endangered California least tern and the state endangered Belding's savannah sparrow. The least tern nests on Huntington State Beach approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the project sites. Least terns forage primarily in the ocean and at the Santa Ana River mouth but do use the flood control channels of the Talbert Valley channel system for foraging and would be expected to sometimes forage in the Huntington Beach Channel near the Newland Street Bridge.

The State endangered Belding's savannah sparrow nests in the Newland Marsh adjacent to the project area. There is minimal habitat on the project site to support the activities of this species. However, three small patches of pickleweed occur amongst the rip rap adjacent to the Newland Street Bridge. Because of the small size of the patches and low density of pickleweed within each patch, these areas have very low value for Belding's savannah sparrow. However, the birds may at times forage in them.

4.3 JURISDICTIONAL ASSESSMENT

The Huntington Beach Channel where the Newland Street Bridge will be widened is under the jurisdiction of the USACE and the CDFG. The extension of the reinforced box culvert will affect 0.05 acres that fall under the jurisdiction of the USACE as Other Waters of the United States. In addition, 0.002 acres of wetlands would be affected by removal of rip rap and widening of the bridge. The area within the channel under CDFG jurisdiction that would be affected by the project is 0.07 acres.

The proposed project also would replace a 0.03 acre man made drainage ditch adjacent to Newland Street with a 39 inch RCP storm drain. The ditch contains 0.02 acres of wetlands but was determined not to fall under USACE jurisdiction because it has no outlet. The water that drains into it from Newland Street and Edison Way has to be pumped out. Because the ditch is isolated from any other drainages or waters it was determined not to fall under USACE jurisdiction. Although the ditch does not fall under USACE jurisdiction it would still be regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2004-004-DWQ. CDFG also may take jurisdiction of the ditch. The amount of area in the ditch potentially under CDFG jurisdiction is 0.09 acres.

ATTACHMENT MO. 4.31

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APPENDIX A FIELD DATA SHEETS

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	Myoporum lactum	muddy, lower tide emergent	•
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DATA FORM ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION [1987 CDE Wetlands Delineation Manual]

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DATA FORM ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION (1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

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DATA FORM ROUTINE WEILAND DETERMINATION (1987 CDE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

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	Other No Recorded Data Available	Weter Marks - 1994
	NO RELEGIOUS SERVICES	Sediment Deposits
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į.	Field Observations:	Secondary indicators (2 or more required):
_	Depth of Surface Water: (in.)	Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches Water-Stained Leaves
		Local Soil Survey Data
j	Depth to Free Water in Pit:(in.)	X FAC-Neutral Test
- 1	Depth to Saturated Soil: (in.)	Other (Explain in Remarks)
A compression of any amount	Remarks: We were to	
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BANK TO BANK ON EAST SWE = 77FT

DATA FORM ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION (1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

Project/Site: NEWLAND ST. Applicant/Owner: CITY OF ITUNI NOTE Investigator: DAULI GIE NOE!	
Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site? Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation is the area a potential Problem Area? (If needed, explain on reverse.)	ion)? Yes No Community ID: 2 Transect ID: III
VEGETATION DITCH BY POW	ER PLANT
Dominant Plant Species 1. SCIR ID US 2. POLY POCTUA: 3. SM. LO (-PAS) 4. BALT (-RAS) 5. TV PHA 6. 7. 8. Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW or FAC (excluding FAC-). Remarks:	Dominant Plant Species Stratum Indicator
HYDROLOGY Recorded Data (Describe in Remarks): Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge Aeriel Photographs Other No Recorded Data Available Field Observations: Depth of Surface Water: Depth to Free Water in Pit: Depth to Saturated Soil: [in.]	Wetland Hydrology Indicators: Primary Indicators: Inundated Saturated in Upper 12 Inches Water Merks Drift Lines Sediment Deposits Drainage Patterns in Wetlands Secondary Indicators (2 or more required): Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches Water-Steined Leaves Local Soil Survey Data FAC-Neutral Test Other (Explain in Remarks)
Remarks:	

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series and Phase):			Fiel	ld Observations enfirm Mapped Typ	e? Yes No
expnomy (Subgroup):					
rofile Description:	Metrix Color (Munsell Moist)	Mottie Colors (Munsell Maist)	Mertie Abundance/Co	mrest Structure.	=-
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APPENDIX B PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Appendix B Plants Species Observed at the Newland Street Avenue Widening Project Site (Huntington Beach, California)

Scientific Name	Common Name
ANGIOSPERMS (DICOTYLEDONS)	
AIZOACEAE	FIG-MARIGOLD FAMILY
Carpobrotus chilensis*	sea-fig
Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*	slender-leaved iceplant
AMARANTHACEAE	AMARANTH FAMILY
Amaranthus retroflexus*	rough pigweed
ANACARDIACEAE	SUMAC OR CASHEW FAMILY
Schinus terebinthifolius*	Brazilian pepper tree
APIACEAE	CARROT FAMILY
Foeniculum vulgare*	fennel
APOCYNACEAE	DOGBANE FAMILY
Nerium oleander*	oleander
ASTERACEAE	SUNFLOWER FAMILY
Conyza bonariensis*	flax-leaved horseweed
Conyza canadensis	horseweed
Eclipta prostrata	false daisy
Isocoma menziesii	coastal goldenbush
Lactuca serriola*	prickly lettuce
Lessingia filaginifolia	cudweed aster
Sonchus asper ssp. asper*	prickly sow thistle
CAPRIFOLIACEAE	HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY
Lonicera japonica*	Japanese honeysuckle
CARYOPHYLLACEAE	PINK FAMILY
Spergularia marina	saltmarsh sandspurrey
CHENOPODIACEAE	GOOSEFOOT FAMILY
Atriplex triangularis	spearscale
Chenopodium sp.	goosefoot
Salicornia virginica	common pickleweed
Salsola tragus*	Russian thistle
CONVOLVULACEAE	MORNING-GLORY FAMILY
Convolvulus arvensis*	bindweed
EUPHORBIACEAE	SPURGE FAMILY
Chamaesyce albomarginata	rattlesnake weed
MALVACEAE	MALLOW FAMILY
Malvella leprosa	alkali-mallow
MYOPORACEAE	MYOPORUM FAMILY
Myoporum laetum*	myoporum
MYRTACEAE	MYRTLE FAMILY
Callistemon sp.*	bottlebrush tree
POLYGONACEAE	BUCKWHEAT FAMILY
Polygonum sp.	polygonum
SOLANACEAE	NIGHTSHADE FAMILY
Lycopersicon esculentum*	tomato
Solanum douglasii	Douglas' nightshade
ANGIOSPERMS (MONOCOTYLEDONS)	- Douglas Ingilialiado
CYPERACEAE	SEDGE FAMILY
Scirpus maritimus	river bulrush
LILIACEAE	LILY FAMILY
Agave sp.*	i e
Ayare sp.	agave

Appendix B (continued) Plants Species Observed at the Newland Street Avenue Widening Project Site (Huntington Beach, California)

Scientific Name	Common Name
POACEAE	GRASS FAMILY
Bromus diandrus*	ripgut grass
Distichlis spicata	saltgrass
Piptatherum miliaceum*	smilo grass
Poa annua*	annual bluegrass
Polypogon monspeliensis*	annual beard grass
TYPHACEAE	CATTAIL FAMILY
Typha angustifolia	narrow-leaved cattail
Typha latifolia	broad-leaved cattail
*Non-Native Species	

APPENDIX C SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

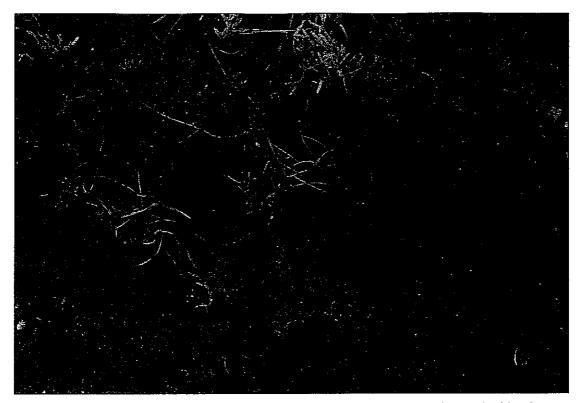


Photo 1: This photo was taken on the west side of Newland Street, on the north side of Huntington channel. It depicts a soil pit used to determine whether there is a presence of hydrophytic soils. This soil is characterized as sandy with organic streaking.



Photo 2: This photo, taken on the west side of Newland Street, on the north side of Huntington Channel, depicts emergent pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*) in muddy areas below rip rap.





Photo 3: This photo was taken on the west side of Newland Street, on the south side of Huntington Channel.



Photo 4: This photo was taken on the west side of Newland Street, on the south side of Huntington Channel. It depicts emergent pickleweed present in muddy areas with drift eel grass and hair algae.





Photo 5: This photo was taken on the east side of Newland Street, on the south side of Huntington channel. It shows that no wetland vegetation was found but ornamental tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) was present.



Photo 6: This photo was taken on the east side of Newland Street facing north, depicting sparse vegetation of mainly non-native weeds.



NEWLAND STREET WIDENING (HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA)
SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
APPENDIX C



Photo 7: This photo was taken in a ditch on the west side of Newland Street, facing south toward Pacific Coast Highway. Wetland vegetation is shown, including sedges (*Carex* spp.), cattails (*Typha* spp.), and non-native grasses.



Photo 8: This photo was taken in a ditch on the west side of Newland Street, facing north toward Hannilton. The banks of the ditch are lined with saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*) and iceplant (*Carpobrotus chilensis*).

